Homes for Aged Licensing 'Mess' Expected to End

An end to the "complete mess" concerning licensing of homes that care for Greater Victoria's aged and infirm should be one result of B.C.'s new health setup, say welfare officials.

The Throne Speech yesterday said there would be a reorganization of the department of health and welfare whereby the mental health services, the health branch and the hospital insurance service will form one department and the welfare branch another.

Glen Hamilton, secretary of the Community Welfare Council of Greater Victoria, and executive director of the Silver Threads Service, said last night:

"This is a good move and one long needed. There should be one act to regulate all institutions giving care to the infirm aged.

"Right now, for instance," he said, "two-thirds of the places—boarding homes—in Greater Victoria giving such care have only city trade licences."

Owen Karn, Silver Threads' president, said his organization had been working for some time towards an act that would regulate nursing and boarding homes caring for the aged.

WE ARE DELIGHTED

"And we are delighted to learn that this may be translated into official action," he said.

"This was long overdue," said William Hooson, city welfare administrator. "It will tend to eliminate overlapping functions."

Both Mr. Hooson and Mr. Hamilton applauded the Throne Speech announcement that the standing committee on labor will be convened immediately to study ways and means of solving the unemployment problem.

ALL TO BE HEARD

Representatives of labor, management and all interested groups and individuals will be heard, the Throne Speech said.

"We desperately need to get together and take a look at what we're doing to people," said Mr. Hooson.

"We make them go on 'relief' instead of giving them work to do."

Unemployment

Inquiry Pleases Labor

Victoria labor is all in favor of the provincial government's new "combined operation" plan to deal with unemployment.

"This will give labor a chance to get its ideas across to the public," Robert Barrie, Victoria Labor Council president, said last night.

INQUIRY PLANNED

He was commenting on the Throne Speech announcement yesterday that the standing committee on labor will be convened immediately to launch an inquiry into the problem.

Invited to participate will be representatives of management and labor and all interested group and individuals, the Throne Speech indicated.

DO ANYTHING

"If it's for the benefit of labor, we'll testify or do anything necessary to help," said Mr. Barrie.

Immediate convening of the standing committee is "a very good idea," said Ed Haw, labor council vice-president.

GREATLY ASSIST

He said the plan would greatly assist the B.C. Federation of Labor which is sending a delegation to Victoria Feb. 2.

"This will guarantee that they will be given a hearing," Mr. Haw said.

AT LAST STARTING

"It shows that they (the B.C. government) are at last starting to treat this unemployment problem seriously."

Power Chief Takes Seat In Hot Spot

B.C. Power Commission chairman T. H. Crosby was seated in a hot spot at yesterday's opening of the Legislature. On his right was Einar Gunderson, a director of the Peace River Power Development Company. On his left was William Mearns, a vice-president of the B.C. Electric, and behind him was Bernard Gore, chief representative of Wenner-Gren interests here.

Some Aboriginal dwelling remains found in eastern Australia are estimated 5,000 years old.

First Indian Page Boy

First Indian page on floor of the House is 13-year-old Johnny Joe, 15 Cooper Road. He is talking over duties with deputy provincial secretary Laurie Wallace. Johnny is a member of Songhees band, attends St. Louis College.

Courthouse News Draws a Chortle

First laugh of this year's sitting of the Legislature came yesterday, when, during the reading of the Throne Speech, Lieutenant-Governor Ross said a start will definitely be made this year on Victoria's courthouse.

CCF MLA Tony Gargrave and Liberal members Archie Gibbs and George Gregory chortled. They have been needling the government for several years about a new courthouse for Victoria.

★ ★ ★

Enrolment in B.C. schools increased during the year ending last June from 260,069 to 277,070, Education Minister Leslie Peterson said yesterday in his annual report tabled in the Legislature.

Some 47,000 adults attended various schools including 36,611 at night schools.

★ ★ ★

British pronunciation of the word "lieutenant" as "leftenant" led to some confusion in the mind of Leonard Tisdalle, young son of Saanich MLA John Tisdalle, at the house opening yesterday.

When Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross appeared the youngster observed to his mother: "So that's the left-hand governor. Do they ever have a right-hand one?"

★ ★ ★

Donald Brothers, newly-elected Social Credit member for Rossland-Trail, isn't sitting in his predecessor's seat in the legislature. Robert Sommers' seat in the house has been taken over by Irvine Corbett (SC, Yale). Mr. Brothers has been seated in the over-flow section of the Social Credit back benches.

B.C. Tory Leader Off to Ottawa

Deane Finlayson, British Columbia Progressive Conservative party leader, leaves by air today for Ottawa and talks with national party chiefs. He attended yesterday's opening of the new session of the B.C. legislature.

Jubilee WA

The annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary to the Royal Jubilee Hospital will be held in the nurses' residence on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 3 p.m. Miss Flora Burns and Mr. George Masters will be guest speakers.

Didn't Have to Borrow — Had Money, Says Bennett

$25,860,000 for Jobs

Premier Bennett said yesterday the provincial government used up $25,860,600 of revenue surplus to expand employment during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, "but we did not have to borrow because we saved our money in the good years of 1953 and 1956."

In presenting the Public Accounts to the Legislature yesterday he said the value of provincial assets in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, were recorded at $648,829,000, or an amount $40,721,000 greater than for the preceding year.

He said liabilities amounted to $432,244,000 and the excess over liabilities increased by $66,831,000 during the fiscal year.

Revenue collections amounted to $277,324,400 and current services charged to income included $11,221,600 for debt charges, $180,248,400 for general public service, and $34,074,800 for Hospital Insurance Service, leaving a current account revenue surplus of $51,779,600.

Expenditures for capital projects such as roads, bridges, ferries, forest development and mining roads, park development, etc., amounted to $62,640,200 and supplementary debt redemption appropriations amounted to $21,104,400 for a grand total of $83,744,600.

Cash to meet these costs was derived from $51,779,600 from revenue surplus which accrued during the fiscal year, $6,104,400 from transfer to current income of final settlement by the federal government under the 1947 tax rental agreement, and $25,860,600 from revenue surpluses of former years.

Hit Truckers Harder Road Probe Urges

Commercial truckers should pay a greater share of road costs, a commission of inquiry into road-user charges said yesterday in a report tabled in the legislature.

The commission, headed by Dr. H. F. Angus, said that private non-commercial passenger vehicles should pay one-third of road costs, commercial vehicles should pay one-third, and non-users should pay one-third.

It recommended much higher overweight fees for commercial vehicles and basing of licence fees on gross weight instead of net weight.

TWO-CENT BOOST

It also recommended an increase to 12 cents, from 10 cents a gallon, for diesel fuels.

The report said 27 more permanent weighing stations should be established and personnel increased to 80, from 37, at an increase in cost of $300,000.

The report also calls for establishment of a central agency or department of motor transport to protect the highways against destructive use, to enforce revenue laws affecting commercial vehicles, to make and administer safety regulations and to conduct continuing research into problems of equitable taxation.

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Why Men Don't Talk

Nearly every woman complains that her husband "never tells her anything". Marjorie Holmes in February Reader's Digest thinks she's figured *why* men are so close-mouthed (she says there are "several basic sex differences"). Read her hints on how to make men talk. Get your Reader's Digest today: 42 articles of lasting interest.

B.C. May Curb Power Boats

British Columbia may soon take steps to curtail use of motor boats on small lakes, Recreation Minister Earle Westwood indicated in his annual report tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

"Motor boat use on certain small lakes is apparently becoming a nuisance to other users," he said. "A review of all aspects of this situation is being undertaken and it is anticipated that some of the problems can be solved by amendment of existing federal statutes which would permit the province to regulate motor boat use under special circumstances."

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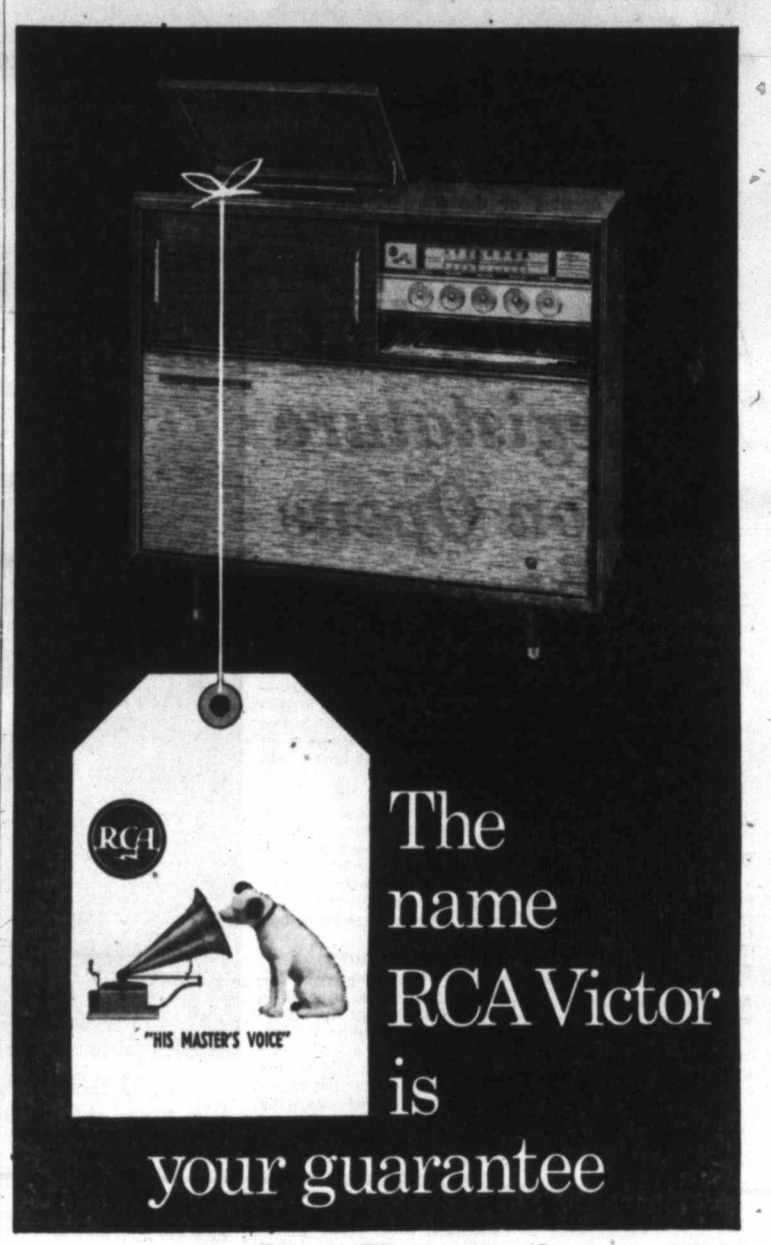

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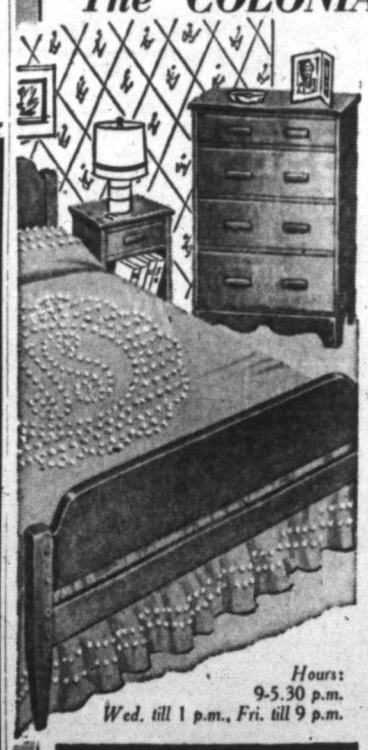

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